

[Translation]

Terrorist Activities in Tarai Region

*349. SHRI JEEWAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh has submitted any proposal to the Union Government for checking the increasing terrorist activities in the Tarai region of the State;

(b) when this proposal was received by the Union Government;

(c) the action taken by the Union Government thereon; and

(d) the total amount asked for by the Government of Uttar Pradesh through the above proposal and the amount actually sanctioned by the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN): (a) to (d). The Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh had written to the Home Minister in October 1991 seeking Central assistance for combating terrorist activities in the State. A detailed proposal in this regard has been received from the State Government early this month. Among other things, the State Government has requested for additional paramilitary force, as well as weapons for the State police. The State Government has estimated the cost of the schemes for combating terrorism at Rs. 36 crores and has requested the Center to meet at least half of this cost. The proposal is under examination. Some assistance in terms of weapons and additional para-military forces is already being provided.

[English]

Citizens' Committees in J & K

*350. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up district-level citizens' committees in Jammu & Kashmir to counter the growing influence of militants; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN): (a) and (b). The Government of Jammu & Kashmir has decided to constitute District Advisory Groups to assist the District Development Commissioners in different aspects of district administration including developmental matters. The Advisory Groups are to consist of MICS, former MPs and MLAs, Sarpanches, representatives of recognised political parties and scheduled castes/tribes, academicians and prominent social workers. To start with these groups have been constituted in the Jammu region.

[Translation]

Post Office in Each Gram Sabha

*351. SHRI BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any long term scheme to open a Post Office in each Gram Sabha of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of the States in which the said scheme is being implemented at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) While for locating a post office, gram panchayat headquarters are given preference, the criteria that is followed for opening post offices in rural areas is satisfaction of certain norms relating to

population served, distance from existing post office and financial position. The existing norms in this respect are as under:

NORMS FOR RURAL AREAS FOR OPENING OF POST OFFICES:

In normal rural areas.

- 1) *Population:* 3000 population in a group of villages;
- 2) *Distance :* The minimum distance from the nearest existing post office will be 3 Kms.
- 3) *Anticipated income:* The minimum anticipated revenue will be 33 1/3% of the cost.

IN HILLY, TRIBAL, DESERT AND INACCESSIBLE RURAL AREAS:

- 1) *Population:* 500 population in an individual village or 1000 population in a group of villages.
- 2) *Distance:* The distance limit will be the same as above except that in hilly areas, the minimum distance limit can be relaxed by the Directorate where such relaxation is warranted by special circumstances.
- 3) *Anticipated income:* The minimum anticipated income will be 15% of the cost.

(b) and (c). In view of reply to (a) above the question does not arise.

[English]

Thermal Power Generation

*352. SHRI CHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN:
SHRIMATI MAHENDRA KUMARI:

Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether thermal power generation has registered a negative growth during the first six months of the current financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have identified the causes thereof; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

(d) As a continuing programme Government had initiated various measures for optimal utilisation of the installed thermal generation capacity such as:

- (i) Renovation and Modernisation of old Units;
- (ii) Assistance to Electricity Boards in undertaking plant betterment programmes; and
- (iii) Supply of requisite quantity and quality of coal.

[Translation]

Northern Region Electricity Board

*353. SHRI SIMON MARANDI: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state;

(a) whether the Northern Region Elec-